

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing of claims, in the Application.

Listing of claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of accessing data regarding commerce assets such as products or services offered at virtual stores participating in a virtual marketplace, the assets being organized by types, each type being enabled to include all versions of an asset in a client/server system based on a user query for data relating to a commerce asset for a particular asset type at a particular virtual store, the user accessing the client/server system through a client having a graphical user interface to obtain the user query and to display a response to the query, the assets data being stored in a database accessed by a resource manager, an application server interfacing the resource manager with graphical user interface, said method comprising the steps of:
 - a) establishing a storepath relationship to correlate correlating asset types among related the virtual stores;
 - b) ~~resolving the user query into at least a database query executable by the resource manager;~~
 - c) ~~retrieving assets data for asset type available at particular virtual store~~ consulting the storepath relationship for the asset type of a particular asset upon receiving a query from a user, the query including the particular asset and a particular virtual store indicating the virtual store at which the user desires to shop; and

- d) returning data representing all the versions of the particular asset
~~assets data to the~~ user as the a response to the query.
2. (Currently amended) The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein the data
returned includes data representing availability of all the versions of the
particular asset , ~~further comprising the step of:~~
- e) ~~storing storepaths relationships in memory.~~
3. (Currently amended) The method as set forth in claim 2, wherein the data
returned further includes data representing the virtual stores that carry
versions of the particular asset as well as a price of the versions of the
particular asset for comparison shopping ~~the step of resolving the user~~
~~query into at least a database query executable by the resource manager~~
~~further comprises constructing the database queries based on the~~
~~storepaths relationships in the memory.~~
4. (Currently amended) The method as set forth in claim 2 4, wherein one or
more virtual stores can elect to not have available one or more of the
different versions of the particular asset ~~the each store SA has commerce~~
~~assets CA having asset types AT.~~
5. (Currently amended) The method as set forth in claim 2 ~~[[4]]~~, wherein
when the user buys one of a particular asset or one of the virtual stores
adds to the availability of the particular asset, the availability of the
particular asset is dynamically updated ~~each of the asset types AT is~~
~~mapped into relationship type RT for each store SA.~~

6 – 21 Canceled

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22. (New) A computer program product on a computer readable medium for allowing a user to access data regarding commerce assets such as products or services offered at virtual stores participating in a virtual marketplace, the assets being organized by types, each type being enabled to include all versions of an asset, the computer program product comprising:

code means for establishing a storepath relationship to correlate asset types among the virtual stores;

code means for consulting the storepath relationship for the asset type of a particular asset upon receiving a query from a user, the query including the particular asset and a particular virtual store indicating the store at which the user desires to shop; and

code means for returning data representing all the versions of the particular asset to the user as a response to the query.

23. (New) The computer program product of claim 22 wherein the data returned includes data representing availability of all the versions of the particular asset.
24. (New) The computer program product of claim 23, wherein the data returned further includes data representing the virtual stores that carry versions of the particular asset as well as a price of the versions of the particular asset for comparison shopping.
25. (New) The computer program product of claim 23 wherein one or more virtual stores can elect to not have available one or more of the different versions of the particular asset.

26. (New) The computer program product of claim 23 wherein when the user buys one of a particular asset or one of the virtual stores adds to the availability of the particular asset, the availability of the particular asset is dynamically updated.

27. (New) A computer system for a user to access data regarding commerce assets such as products or services offered at virtual stores participating in a virtual marketplace, the assets being organized by types, each type being enabled to include all versions of an asset, the computer system comprising:

at least one storage system for storing code data; and

at least one processor for processing the code data to establish a storepath relationship to correlate asset types among the virtual stores, to consult the storepath relationship for an asset type of a particular asset upon receiving a query from a user, the query including the particular asset and a particular virtual store indicating a virtual store at which the user desires to shop and to receive and display returned data representing all the versions of the particular asset to the user as a response to the query.

28. (New) The computer system of claim 27 wherein the data returned includes data representing availability of all the versions of the particular asset.

29. (New) The computer system of claim 28, wherein the data returned further includes data representing the virtual stores that carry versions of the

particular asset as well as a price of the versions of the particular asset for comparison shopping.

30. (New) The computer system of claim 28 wherein one or more virtual stores can elect to not have available one or more of the different versions of the particular asset.
31. (New) The computer system of claim 28 wherein when the user buys one of a particular asset or one of the virtual stores adds to the availability of the particular asset, the availability of the particular asset is dynamically updated.
32. (New) A computer-controlled apparatus for a user to access data regarding commerce assets such as products or services offered at virtual stores participating in a virtual marketplace, the assets being organized by types, each type being enabled to include all versions of an asset, the computer-implemented apparatus comprising:

means for establishing a storepath relationship to correlate asset types among the virtual stores;

means for consulting the storepath relationship for the asset type of a particular asset upon receiving a query from a user, the query including the particular asset and a particular virtual store indicating the virtual store at which the user desires to shop; and

means for returning data representing all the versions of the particular asset to the user as a response to the query.

33. (New) The computer-controlled apparatus of claim 32 wherein the data returned includes data representing availability of all the versions of the particular asset.
34. (New) The computer-controlled apparatus of claim 33, wherein the data returned further includes data representing the virtual stores that carry versions of the particular asset as well as a price of the versions of the particular asset for comparison shopping.
35. (New) The computer-controlled apparatus of claim 33 wherein one or more virtual stores can elect to not have available one or more of the different versions of the particular asset.
36. (New) The computer-controlled apparatus of claim 33 wherein when the user buys one of a particular asset or one of the virtual stores adds to the availability of the particular asset, the availability of the particular asset is dynamically updated.